# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES	8	
Plaintiff,	§	Civil Action No3:20-cv-3580
	§	
v.	§	
	§	
KEVIN LOUIS HILL &	§	
ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD.,	§	
Defendants.	8	

#### **INDEX OF STATE COURT FILINGS**

Exhibit	<u>Filing</u>	<u>Date Filed in</u> State Court
B-1	Plaintiffs' Original Petition	8/28/20
B-2	Citation Issued - Ashley Distribution	8/31/20
(No document)	Services, Ltd.	
B-3	Citation Issued – Kevin Louis Hill	8/31/20
(No document)		
B-4	Defendants' Answer to Plaintiff's Original	11/30/20
	Petition	
B-5	Citation Returned – Ashley Distribution	11/30/20
	Services (Executed on 11/06/20)	

	DC-C202000497		
	CAUSE NO	0.	
SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT	
Plaintiff	§		
•	§		
VS.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
	§	Johnson County - 413th District Court	
KEVIN LOUIS HILL &	§		
ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION	§		
SERVICES, LTD.	§	·	
•	§		
Defendants	§	JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS	
PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION			

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Samuel Amezquita Morales, Plaintiff herein and files this Original Petition complaining of Defendants, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. and Kevin Louis Hill, (collectively hereinafter called Defendants), and for cause of action could show unto the Court the following:

## I. DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

1. Pursuant to Rule 190.3 TEX. R. CIV. P., Plaintiff, SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES, asserts that discovery should be conducted in this case under level 2.

## II. PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff **SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES** is an individual residing in the state of Texas whose Social Security number is XXX-XX-X231, and whose Texas Driver's License number is XXXXX264.
- 2.1 Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. is a corporation doing business in Texas and may be served with citation and a copy of Plaintiff's Original Petition through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company, 8040 Excelsior Dr. Suite 400, Madison, WI, 53717.

Pursuant to Rule 28 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, if some other individual(s), partnership(s), corporation(s), association(s), or business entity(s) of any type are owned and/or operated under the name or names of the above Defendants, Plaintiff hereby demands that the appropriate entity be substituted.

2.2 Defendant, **KEVIN LOUIS HILL** is an individual residing in Texas and may be served with citation and a copy of Plaintiff's Original Petition at his residence 4732 Kristie Lane, Balch Springs, TX 75180 or wherever he may be found.

## III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Venue is proper in Johnson County, Texas pursuant to § 15.002 et. seq of the Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code since all or part of the cause of action occurred in Johnson County, Texas. Furthermore, this Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit as the amounts sought herein are within the jurisdictional limits of this court. While amounts of damages to be awarded will be the decision made by a jury of the Plaintiff's peers, to comply with T.R.C.P. 47, as revised, Plaintiff states that he is seeking damages pursuant to Rule 47 (c)(2).

#### IV. FACTS

4. Plaintiff, Samuel Amezquita Morales would show this Honorable Court that on or about March 25, 2019, Plaintiff, Samuel Amezquita Morales was operating a vehicle in obedience with applicable traffic laws on US Hwy 67, Alvarado, Johnson County, Texas. Defendant, Kevin Louis Hill was operating a company vehicle in the course and scope of his employment, travelling in front of Plaintiff's vehicle. Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. entrusted Defendant, Kevin Louis Hill to operate the company vehicle. Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD., failed to properly inspect and maintain the company vehicle. The drive shaft of the Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures to Defendants

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company vehicle became dislodged and fell into the street in front of Plaintiff Samuel Amezquita Morales' vehicle, causing him to veer to the right and hit the median. As the direct and proximate result of this collision, Plaintiff Samuel Amezquita Morales suffered personal injuries and damages as will be set forth more fully herein.

## V. SPECIFIC NEGLIGENCE OF KEVIN LOUIS HILL

- 5. Plaintiff would show this Honorable Court and Jury that at the time of the occurrence in question, **Defendant Driver**, **Kevin Louis Hill** who was in course and scope of his employment with **Ashley Distribution Services**, **LTD.**, was guilty of various acts and omissions, each of which constituted negligence as a matter of law or at common law, and each of said acts and omissions, whether singularly or combined, jointly or severally, being a proximate cause of the occurrence in question. Said acts and omissions include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Failure to properly inspect the vehicle to ensure it was safe to operate as a person using ordinary care would have done;
  - (2) Failure to ensure that all parts and accessories were in a safe an proper operating condition at all times as a person using ordinary care would have done;
  - (3) Failure to repair any defect or deficiency which would be likely to affect the safety of operation of the vehicle;
  - (4) Failure to notify his employers about an unsafe condition on the vehicle as a person using ordinary care would have done;
- 6. That each and all of the foregoing acts and/or omissions of negligence, taken individually, collectively, or in any combination, were directly and proximately a cause of the serious, permanently, and disabling bodily injuries and damages sustained by the PLAINTIFF.

#### VI. RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

7. Under the doctrine of Respondent Superior, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD., as employer of Defendant, Kevin Louis Hill, is vicariously liable for the torts that Kevin Louis Hill, its employee, committed in the course and scope of his employment. The incident on March 25, 2019, made the basis of this lawsuit was committed in the course and scope of Kevin Louis Hill's employment with Ashley Distribution Services, LTD.

## VII. NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT

8. Plaintiff would show that at the time of the collision in question, Ashley Distribution
Services, LTD. was the owner of a commercial vehicle being driven by Defendant Driver,
Kevin Louis Hill. Plaintiff would also show that vehicle that was driven by Defendant, Kevin
Louis Hill was insured by Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. Defendant, Ashley
Distribution Services, LTD., entrusted the vehicle in question to Kevin Louis Hill for the
purpose of operating it on the public streets and highways of Texas, and Defendant, Kevin
Louis Hill operated the vehicle in question with the knowledge, consent and permission of
Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. At such time, Kevin Louis Hill, was
incompetent and unfit to safely operate a motor vehicle on the public streets and highways.
Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD., knew, or in the exercise of due care, should
have known, that Defendant Kevin Louis Hill was an incompetent and unfit driver and would
create an unreasonable risk of danger to persons and property on the public streets and highways
of Texas. Defendant, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD. is therefore negligent for entrusting
the vehicle in question to Defendant Kevin Louis Hill.

## VIII. DAMAGES

9. As a direct and proximate result of the incident in question, Plaintiff sustained severe and painful injuries to his neck and spine.

Plaintiff would show that as a result of the injuries sustained by him, he has been required to seek medical care and treatment and has incurred reasonable and necessary medical expenses in the care and treatment of his injuries in the past and he will, in all reasonable probability, continue to incur reasonable and necessary medical expenses in the treatment of his injuries in the future; he has experienced pain and suffering, mental anguish and emotional trauma in the past and he will, in all reasonable probability, continue to experience pain and suffering, mental anguish and emotional trauma in the future; he has become physically impaired and such impairment will, in all reasonable probability, remain with him for the rest of his life; he has become disabled and such disability will, in all reasonable probability, remain with him for the rest of his life.

#### IX.

10. Pleading further, if it be shown that Plaintiff was suffering from a previous injury, condition and/or disease at the time of the event in question, then such injury, condition and/or disease was aggravated as a proximate result of this occurrence.

## X. JURY TRIAL REQUEST

11. Pursuant to Rule 216, TEX. R. CIV. P., Plaintiff, Samuel Amezquita Morales requests a trial by jury.

## XI. FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COURT AND DEFENDANTS ONLY

12. Served with Plaintiff's Original Petition is Plaintiff's First Request for Disclosures to Defendants. It is Plaintiff's position that this notice is sufficient to put each Defendant and each Defendant's counsel, if any, on notice of any and all discovery deadlines applicable to the attached discovery requests. Pursuant to Rule 194, each Defendant herein is request to disclose within fifty (50) days of the service of this request, the information and materials described in Rule 194.2 a-1.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendants, individually and/or collectively be cited to appear and answer herein in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas; and that upon hearing hereon, he have judgment of and from the Defendants, individually and/or collectively, in the amount of his damages proved; for all costs of Court; for pre-judgment interest as allowed by law; for post-judgment interest from the date of judgment until paid at the legal rate as established by the Texas Revised Civil Statutes; and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law or in equity, to which he may show himself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF COBY L. WOOTEN,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

COBY L. WOOTEN

State Bar No. 00797742

MATTILYN SMITH

State Bar No. 24097093

1301 Ballinger Street, Suite 100

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

(817) 632-8400

Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures to Defendants

Page 6

(817) 529-2629 - FAX
coby@cobywootenlaw.com
mattilyn@cobywootenlaw.com
janice@cobywootenlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

(No Document)

(No Document)

Filed: 11/30/2020 12:00 AM

### Case 3:20-cv-03580-E Document 1-2 Filed 12/07/20 Page 13 of 26 Page Divid Ro Lloyd, District Clerk Divided Rounds of County, Texas

By: Renee Alexander, Deputy

#### CAUSE NO. DC-C202000497

SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	8	
,	8	
v.	8	413TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
••	8	
KEVIN LOUIS HILL AND ASHLEY	8	
	8	
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD	§	
	§	
	8	
	ა ი	
	8	
Defendants.	§	JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS

#### DEFENDANTS KEVIN HILL AND ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, Defendants Kevin Louis Hill and Ashlev Distribution Services, Ltd. ("Defendants"), Defendants in the above-referenced Cause, and, in response to Plaintiffs' Original Petition on file herein, files this their Answer, and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

I.

#### **GENERAL DENIAL**

1. Subject to such stipulations and admissions as may be made hereafter, Defendants deny each and every allegation made by Plaintiff and hereby enter a general denial as is permitted by Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, and requests that Plaintiff be required to prove by a preponderance of the evidence the charges and allegations which he has made against Defendants.

II.

#### AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- 2. Further answering, alternatively, and by way of affirmative defense, the incident in question and Plaintiff's alleged resulting damages, if any, were the result of negligent and negligent per se, acts and/or omissions of others not under the control of Defendant, including Plaintiff Morales, whose acts or omissions were, alternatively, a proximate cause, or a contributing proximate cause, or the sole proximate cause of the incident in question and any alleged damages resulting therefrom. Defendants, therefore, invoke the doctrine of comparative causation and proportionate responsibility as set forth in Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice or Remedies Code.
- 3. Further answering, alternatively, and by way of affirmative defense, in the unlikely event that any liability be found on the part of Defendants, such liability be reduced by the percentage of causation and responsibility found to have resulted from the negligence and negligence per se of others, including Plaintiff Morales.
- 4. Further answering, alternatively, and by way of affirmative defense, Plaintiff's medical expenses should be limited to those actually paid or incurred on behalf of Plaintiff pursuant to Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code § 41.0105.

#### III.

#### **REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE**

5. Pursuant to Rule 194 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendants hereby request that Plaintiff disclose, within thirty (30) days of service of this request, all of the information or material described in Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194.2.

#### IV.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendants Kevin Louis Hill and Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd. request that Plaintiff take nothing by his suit, that Defendants recover their costs on their behalf expended, and for such other and further relief to which Defendants may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dylan P. Savage

MARK S. SCUDDER
State Bar No. 17936300
DYLAN P. SAVAGE
State Bar No. 24075522
QUILLING, SELANDER, LOWNDS,
WINSLETT & MOSER, P.C.
2001 BRYAN ST., SUITE 1800
DALLAS, TX 75201
(214) 871-2100
(214) 871-2111 Fax
mscudder@qslwm.com
dsavage@qslwm.com

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANTS KEVIN LOUIS HILL AND ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD.

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel certifies that on the 30th day of November 2020 the foregoing was electronically filed in compliance with Rules 21 and 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

<u>/s/ Dylan P. Savage</u> DYLAN P. SAVAGE



#### **Notice of Service of Process**

null / ALL

Transmittal Number: 22269235 Date Processed: 11/06/2020

Primary Contact: Barbara Kniess

Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc

1 Ashley Way

Arcadia, WI 54612-1218

Electronic copy provided to: Cherise Esposito

Entity: Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd.

Entity ID Number 3380159

Entity Served: Ashley Distribution Services, Ltd.

Title of Action: Samuel Amezquita Morales vs. Kevin Louis Hill

Matter Name/ID: Samuel Amezquita Morales vs. Kevin Louis Hill (10643900)

Document(s) Type: Citation/Petition

Nature of Action: Personal Injury

Court/Agency: Johnson County District Court, TX

Case/Reference No: DC-C202000497

Jurisdiction Served: Wisconsin

Date Served on CSC: 11/06/2020

**Answer or Appearance Due:** 10:00 am Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after service

Originally Served On: CSC

How Served: Personal Service
Sender Information: Mattilyn Smith
817-632-8400

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and forwarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC

251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-1674 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscglobal.com

#### State of Texas

413TH DISTRICT COURT

JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS

DISTRICT CLERK

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF(S)

DAVID R. LLOYD GUINN JUSTICE CENTER P.O. BOX 495 CLEBURNE, TEXAS 76033 MATTILYN SMITH 1301 BALLINGER STREET SUITE 100 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

#### CITATION - CIVIL

(PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION)
CAUSE NO. DC-C202000497

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. IF YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY DO NOT FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER WITH THE CLERK WHO ISSUED THIS CITATION BY 10:00 A.M. ON THE MONDAY NEXT FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER THE SERVICE DATE OF THIS CITATION AND PETITION, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU.

TO: ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES, LTD.

REG. AGENT: CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
8040 EXCELSIOR DRIVE
SUITE 400
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53717

DEFENDANT - GREETINGS:

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the plaintiff's O R I G I N A  ${\bf L}$ 

petition by 10:00 a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after the service date of this citation and petition before the Honorable 413TH DISTRICT COURT of Johnson County, Cleburne, Texas.

Said ORIGINAL petition was filed in said court on the 28TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2020, in this cause numbered  $\overline{DC}$ -C202000497, on the docket of said court, and styled:

#### SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES VS. KEVIN LOUIS HILL AND ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES LTD.

The nature of this demand is fully shown by a true and correct copy of the petition accompanying this citation and made a part hereof.

The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to the requirements of law, and mandates thereof, and make due return as the law directs.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at office in Cleburne, Texas, this 31ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

DAVID R. LLOYD - DISTRICT CLERK

PROCESS SERVER

DATE / TIME

413TH DISTRICT COURT JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS

BY Buller Vasso

	DC-C202000497		
	CAUSE NO	<b>)</b> .	
SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT	
Plaintiff	§		
·	§		
VS.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT	
	<b>§</b>	Johnson County - 413th District Court	
KEVIN LOUIS HILL &	§		
ASHLEY DISTRIBUTION	§		
SERVICES, LTD.	§	·	
4	§		
Defendants	§	JOHNSON COUNTY, TEXAS	
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## II. PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff **SAMUEL AMEZQUITA MORALES** is an individual residing in the state of Texas whose Social Security number is XXX-XX-X231, and whose Texas Driver's License number is XXXXX264.
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## IV. FACTS

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## V. SPECIFIC NEGLIGENCE OF KEVIN LOUIS HILL

- 5. Plaintiff would show this Honorable Court and Jury that at the time of the occurrence in question, **Defendant Driver**, **Kevin Louis Hill** who was in course and scope of his employment with **Ashley Distribution Services**, **LTD**., was guilty of various acts and omissions, each of which constituted negligence as a matter of law or at common law, and each of said acts and omissions, whether singularly or combined, jointly or severally, being a proximate cause of the occurrence in question. Said acts and omissions include, but are not limited to, the following:
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- 6. That each and all of the foregoing acts and/or omissions of negligence, taken individually, collectively, or in any combination, were directly and proximately a cause of the serious, permanently, and disabling bodily injuries and damages sustained by the PLAINTIFF.

#### VI. RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR

7. Under the doctrine of Respondent Superior, Ashley Distribution Services, LTD., as employer of Defendant, Kevin Louis Hill, is vicariously liable for the torts that Kevin Louis Hill, its employee, committed in the course and scope of his employment. The incident on March 25, 2019, made the basis of this lawsuit was committed in the course and scope of Kevin Louis Hill's employment with Ashley Distribution Services, LTD.

## VII. NEGLIGENT ENTRUSTMENT

8. Plaintiff would show that at the time of the collision in question, Ashley Distribution
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10. Pleading further, if it be shown that Plaintiff was suffering from a previous injury, condition and/or disease at the time of the event in question, then such injury, condition and/or disease was aggravated as a proximate result of this occurrence.

## X. JURY TRIAL REQUEST

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12. Served with Plaintiff's Original Petition is Plaintiff's First Request for Disclosures to Defendants. It is Plaintiff's position that this notice is sufficient to put each Defendant and each Defendant's counsel, if any, on notice of any and all discovery deadlines applicable to the attached discovery requests. Pursuant to Rule 194, each Defendant herein is request to disclose within fifty (50) days of the service of this request, the information and materials described in Rule 194.2 a-1.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendants, individually and/or collectively be cited to appear and answer herein in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas; and that upon hearing hereon, he have judgment of and from the Defendants, individually and/or collectively, in the amount of his damages proved; for all costs of Court; for pre-judgment interest as allowed by law; for post-judgment interest from the date of judgment until paid at the legal rate as established by the Texas Revised Civil Statutes; and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law or in equity, to which he may show himself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF COBY L. WOOTEN.

ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

COBY L. WOOTEN

State Bar No. 00797742

MATTILYN SMITH

State Bar No. 24097093

1301 Ballinger Street, Suite 100

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

(817) 632-8400

Plaintiff's Original Petition with Request for Disclosures to Defendants

(817) 529-2629 - FAX
coby@cobywootenlaw.com
mattilyn@cobywootenlaw.com
janice@cobywootenlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF